

## Climate Friendly Tips – 21 things your business can do to help the planet



No matter how big or small your business, you can take steps to reduce your energy emissions.

1. **Do an energy and/or environmental audit** - Understand the impact your company is having on the environment by auditing your energy use, emissions, waste and other environmental impacts. Once you know, develop a strategy to reduce these impacts over time.
2. **Buy renewable energy/GreenPower** - Countries like Australia, Germany and the US offer energy for consumers from renewable sources only such as solar, wind and geothermal energy. If you have the opportunity, make the switch and you can save an average of 7 tonnes of emissions a year. For information see Climate Friendly's renewable energy offer at [www.climatefriendly.com/electricity](http://www.climatefriendly.com/electricity).
3. **Green your event** - When holding conferences and other large events do what you can to reduce its environmental impact buying locally, choosing energy-efficient and environmentally aware venues, purchasing renewable energy/GreenPower and offsetting remaining emissions.
4. **Open the windows, turn off the air con** - Air conditioning is one of the biggest users of electricity in the summer and a great contributor to greenhouse gas emissions. When appropriate, turn of the air con and open the windows for some fresh air. For enclosed spaces, switch your air conditioner to economy cycle, which lowers energy use and makes the most of the fresh air.
5. **Shade your office** - Install awnings or shading over windows and walls exposed to the sun. This will help keep the heat out, the air conditioners off and the power bill low.
6. **Change your light bulbs** - A switch from conventional light bulbs to energy efficient compact fluorescents can be one of the most effective

things your business can do to reduce emissions and stop global warming and it saves you money.

7. **Turn off lights** - It sounds simple but turning off the lights when leaving the office can make a big difference to reducing greenhouse gas emissions. Timers are an effective way of ensuring light are not left on after hours and motion sensors can be installed so lights are on only when needed.
8. **Look at your layout** - Moving office furniture to maximise the use natural sunlight from windows means less electricity use, lower costs and nicer views.
9. **Think about your hot water** - How much hot water is really necessary in your office space? Leaving tea urns and water boilers on all day in your office kitchen uses a lot of energy, up to 90% of which can be wasted. For small offices a quick boil kettle may be all you need. If larger urns and water boilers are necessary, switch them off at the end of the day and look into getting energy efficient, insulated models.
10. **Switch to solar hot water or gas heating** - This can save as much as two to three tonnes of greenhouse gas emissions per year and greatly reduce energy costs.
11. **Make conference calls or use Skype instead of travelling to meetings** - Set a company policy that makes international trips a rarity rather than a regular thing and make the most of your communication options such as conference, video or Skype calls. Fewer flights mean less travel time and savings of up to 10 tonnes of emissions per international trip. If you need to fly, consider offsetting your air travel emissions with Climate Friendly, or online at [www.climatefriendly.com/flight](http://www.climatefriendly.com/flight).
12. **Encourage or financially support your employees to use public transport** - Cars contribute 41.7 million tonnes of Australia's overall greenhouse gas emissions and similar amounts in other countries. Encourage your employees to use public transport or financially support them by using a voucher or annual train, bus or ferry scheme.
13. **Install bike racks and showers** - Help your healthy-minded employees reduce their carbon emissions and get fit by providing safe bike lock up areas and showers for cyclists, walkers and runners.
14. **Work from home, save the trip** - Even a day at home a month can make a difference to reducing transport emissions. Where appropriate, allow your employees to work from home occasionally.
15. **Buy efficiency** - When buying high energy using equipment such as computers, copy machines, fleet cars, etc. look for or ask for the energy

ratings and choose the best energy-saving option accordingly - saves you money and the earth.

16. **Promote all the great work you're doing** – Businesses with who are taking meaningful action on climate change are eligible to advertise in 'green' publications like the [Green Pages](#) . You'll also find thousands of other low-carbon suppliers to further reduce emissions across your supply chain.
17. **Look at laptops** - Next time you're replacing office computers, remember that laptops and notebooks use up to 90% less energy. If LCD screens are too small when connected to an energy efficient monitor, they still only use around half the energy of a normal desktop computer.
18. **Maintain your equipment** - Regularly check air conditioning vents, pipes and filters and maintain office equipment to ensure it is operating efficiently. Regular maintenance prevents leaks and wasted energy and ensures you get the best out of expensive equipment.
19. **Buy recycled** - Buying used or recycled office furniture and materials such as paper, means less energy use, emissions and pollution. Recycle as much of your office waste and unwanted goods as possible.
20. **Switch off standby and turn off monitors** - Leaving computers, printers and photocopiers on stand-by can account for much of your office's energy use, and therefore emissions and costs. Turn off computers and other equipment off at source at the end of the day and when not in use. Install timers on monitors and other equipment to ensure they are off when not in use. So simple, so effective.
21. **Install waterless urinals** - Every year, billions of litres of fresh drinking water are wasted in urinals flushing. Waterless urinals use absolutely no water while meeting the highest hygienic standards. So make the switch, save your water bill and the environment.

#### For more information:

- **Energy Saver, US Dept. of Energy:** [www.energysavers.gov](http://www.energysavers.gov)
- **Energy Star, US:** [www.energystar.gov](http://www.energystar.gov)
- **The Green Building Council, US, UK, Australia, etc.:**  
[www.usgbc.org/DisplayPage.aspx?CategoryID=19](http://www.usgbc.org/DisplayPage.aspx?CategoryID=19)  
[www.gbcaus.org](http://www.gbcaus.org)
- **National Energy Foundation, UK:**  
[www.nef.org.uk/energyadvice/savingenergy.htm](http://www.nef.org.uk/energyadvice/savingenergy.htm)
- **SDGE, US:** [www.sdge.com/business/ee\\_tips.shtml](http://www.sdge.com/business/ee_tips.shtml)
- **Mercury Energy, New Zealand:**  
[www.mercury.co.nz/Business/savepower\\_computers.aspx](http://www.mercury.co.nz/Business/savepower_computers.aspx)

- **UK Net Guide - Saving Energy in the Workplace:**  
[www.uknetguide.co.uk/Business/Article/Saving Energy In The Workplace.html](http://www.uknetguide.co.uk/Business/Article/Saving_Energy_In_The_Workplace.html)
- **City of San Jose, US:** [www.sanjoseca.gov/esd/natural-energy-resources/ER-Tips-office.htm](http://www.sanjoseca.gov/esd/natural-energy-resources/ER-Tips-office.htm)